HCC – Stafford – Test 3  
  
Chapter 10 – Public Policy and Administration   
  
1. Fragmentation of the Texas executive branch into independent agencies was done by various legislatures to   
a. avoid the issue of power becoming too centralized.   
b. help Governor E. J. Davis deal with the former slave owners.   
c. promote political patronage and kick-backs.   
d. aid the power block of the petroleum producers in the legislature.   
ANSWER: a   
  
2. The mission of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission is to   
a. monitor the appropriated spending of each state agency.   
b. recommend the merging, abolition, or continuation of state agencies.   
c. enforce the Administrative Procedures and Texas Register Act.   
d. enforce the Open Meetings and Records Act.   
ANSWER: b   
  
3. By 2012, how many employees did the state of Texas have?   
a. 85,000   
b. 123,000   
c. 214,000   
d. 311,000   
ANSWER: d   
  
4. A system that hires employees based on their expertise and competency is called a   
a. merit system.   
b. patronage system.   
c. free market system.   
d. crony system.   
ANSWER: a   
  
5. Controversy has surrounded the State Board of Education due to its   
a. lack of educational expertise.   
b. refusal to support teacher unions.   
c. lack of courtesy toward fellow members.   
d. extremist ideological positions.   
ANSWER: d   
  
6. In recent years, Texas public school students have been increasingly   
a. ​ethnic or racial minorities and the economically disadvantaged.   
b. ​middle class Anglo Texans.   
c. ​wealthy immigrants from Europe and Asia.   
d. ​Native American and Anglo.   
ANSWER: a   
  
7. In the case of Fisher v. University of Texas, the Supreme Court held that to use race as a criterion for admission,​   
a. ​the university must demonstrate to a court that it is necessary.   
b. ​the university’s decision to use race must fact “strict scrutiny.”   
c. ​race could not be used in admission decisions.   
d. ​​the university must demonstrate to a court that it is necessary and ​the university’s decision to use race must fact “strict scrutiny.”   
ANSWER: d   
  
8. The Health and Human Services Commission in Texas administers all the following, except   
a. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families   
b. Social Security benefits   
c. Medicare assistance   
d. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program   
ANSWER: b   
  
9. The state-federal program that provides direct cash payments to poor children and their families is   
a. Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program.   
b. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.   
c. SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program).   
d. Medicaid and Tri-Care.   
ANSWER: b   
  
10. In Texas, education, health, and human services expenditures account for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the state’s budget.   
a. one-half   
b. three-fourths   
c. one-third   
d. one-fourth   
ANSWER: b   
  
11. The Texas Railroad Commission has responsibility for all the following, except   
a. ensuring pipeline safety.   
b. setting natural gas rates in rural areas.   
c. breaking up railroad monopolies.   
d. overseeing the capping of abandoned oil wells.   
ANSWER: c   
  
12. ​A case involving a business contract falls under which branch of law?   
a. ​Civil law   
b. ​Criminal law   
c. ​Constitutional law   
d. ​Admiralty law   
ANSWER: a   
  
13. Which one of the following courts is not mentioned in the Texas Constitution?   
a. Municipal courts   
b. Justice of the peace courts   
c. County courts   
d. District courts   
ANSWER: a   
  
14. Which court has original jurisdiction to determine both the validity of will and whether a person is mentally competent?​   
a. ​Probate court   
b. ​District court   
c. ​Justice of the peace court   
d. ​Supreme Court   
ANSWER: a   
  
15. Which of the following courts mainly exercises original jurisdiction?   
a. State district courts   
b. Texas Supreme Court   
c. State Courts of Appeals   
d. Texas Court of Criminal Appeals   
ANSWER: a   
  
16. The Texas Supreme Court would not hear an appeal if the   
a. case involved a school bond election.   
b. Texas Railroad Commission was a party.   
c. case involved money owed to the state by a depository bank.   
d. court of appeals decided the case in a manner contrary to another court of appeals.   
ANSWER: a   
  
17. The type of case appealed directly to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is that of a   
a. first-degree felony conviction.   
b. state jail (fourth-degree) felony conviction.   
c. capital felony conviction with imposed death sentence.   
d. capital felony conviction, regardless of the length of sentence.   
ANSWER: c   
  
18. Which of the following courts does not have criminal jurisdiction?   
a. County courts   
b. Texas Supreme Court   
c. State Courts of Appeals   
d. Texas Court of Criminal Appeals   
ANSWER: b   
  
19. As of 2014, how many Democrats held statewide office in Texas?​   
a. Zero   
b. One   
c. Three   
d. Five   
ANSWER: b   
  
20. In Texas, nearly all judges are chosen by a   
a. legislative committee.   
b. partisan election.   
c. non-partisan election.   
d. nominations council.   
ANSWER: b   
  
  
  
21. The most important role in disciplining judges is now played by the   
a. Texas attorney general’s office.   
b. legislative “address” or impeachment process.   
c. threat of defeat at the next election cycle.   
d. Texas Commission on Judicial Conduct.   
ANSWER: d   
  
22. The Texas Supreme Court does all the following, except   
a. appoint the members of the Board of Law Examiners.   
b. write the Rules of Civil Procedure subject to legislative veto.   
c. fill vacancies in state district courts when they arise.   
d. transfer cases from one court of appeals district to another to balance the caseload.   
ANSWER: c   
  
23. The State Bar of Texas performs all the following functions, except   
a. provide continuing legal education.   
b. discipline, suspend or disbar attorneys.   
c. promote high standards of ethical conduct.   
d. rate and publish the qualifications of lawyers.   
ANSWER: d   
  
24. The compensation for a lawyer based on a percentage of a winning lawsuit is known as a   
a. retainer.   
b. contingency fee.   
c. rebate.   
d. kickback.   
ANSWER: b   
  
25. Indictments are prepared in grand jury proceedings if at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ members decide that there is enough evidence to warrant a trial.   
a. six   
b. twelve   
c. nine   
d. seven   
ANSWER: c   
  
  
  
  
26. A lawyer may inquire​ about a prospective juror’s social media habits to determine if the prospective juror is   
a. ​computer literate.   
b. ​educated.   
c. ​literate in English.   
d. ​biased.   
ANSWER: d   
  
27. In civil cases, which types of damages would compensate a plaintiff for mental anguish or emotional distress?​   
a. ​Economic   
b. ​Noneconomic   
c. ​Punitive   
d. ​Statutory   
ANSWER: b   
  
28. ​In recent years, why have the number of civil jury trials declined?   
a. ​People aren’t suing each other as frequently.   
b. ​More cases are being tried to judges.   
c. ​More cases are being dismissed by judges.   
d. ​More cases are being settled by agreement between the plaintiff and defendant.   
ANSWER: d   
  
Chapter 12 – The Criminal Justice System  
  
29. The Texas Penal Code is a body of laws that covers​   
a. ​code of conduct for attorneys.   
b. ​requirements for prison officials.   
c. ​crime and punishment.   
d. ​tax laws in Texas.   
ANSWER: c   
  
30. Felonies are classified as first, second, or third degree depending on the nature of the crime. This is referred to as​   
a. ​enhanced punishment.   
b. ​graded penalties.   
c. ​capital felony cases.   
d. ​enhanced penalties.   
ANSWER: b   
  
31. Those who engage in organized crime, repeat offenders, and those who commit hate crimes receive enhanced punishment, which means​   
a. ​they are punished as though they had committed the next higher degree of felony.   
b. ​they are automatically given a death sentence.   
c. ​their community service requirements double.   
d. ​they are subject to solitary confinement for the duration of their prison sentence.   
ANSWER: a   
  
32. Which of the following is not one of the ways that state legislators have sought to address high incarceration rates for drug offenders?​   
a. ​Easing parole criteria for nonviolent offenders   
b. ​Establishing in-prison treatment options   
c. ​Creating specialty drug courts   
d. ​Establishing harsher and longer sentences for drug crimes   
ANSWER: d   
  
33. When a prosecutor makes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they agree to make a deal if the defendant pleads guilty to specific charges, in return for specific concessions from the prosecutor.​   
a. ​bargaining plan   
b. ​special concession   
c. ​plea bargain   
d. ​special arrangement   
ANSWER: c   
  
34. The primary motivations for hate crime are​   
a. ​religion and socioeconomic status.   
b. ​race and sexual orientation.   
c. ​gender and occupation.   
d. ​education level and homelessness.   
ANSWER: b   
  
  
  
35. In the 1972 Furman vs. Georgia case the death penalty was found unconstitutional because   
a. ​the justices disagreed generally with the practice of executions.   
b. ​the death penalty’s use was arbitrary and its application was racially biased.   
c. ​of the Eighth Amendment ban on “cruel and unusual punishment.”   
d. ​different methods of execution were being used in different states, making it unfair.   
ANSWER: a   
  
36. When someone has been found guilty of a capital offense, how many jurors must agree to the death sentence for it to be carried out?​   
a. ​A third of them   
b. ​Half of them   
c. ​Three quarters of them   
d. ​All of them   
ANSWER: d   
  
37. What are the reasons for which Texas imprisons lawbreakers?   
a. To achieve vengeance and pay restitution to crime victims   
b. To punish, rehabilitate and isolate offenders, and deter crime   
c. To make the prisons self-supporting and isolate offenders from society   
d. To eliminate the drug problem and deter other persons from committing crimes   
ANSWER: b   
  
38. As of 2013, the number of Texans incarcerated, on parole, or on probation is approximately​   
a. ​456,000.   
b. ​525,000.   
c. ​601,000.   
d. ​650,000.   
ANSWER: d   
  
39. Which of the following states has the highest incarceration rate (number of prisoners per 100,000 residents)?​   
a. ​California   
b. ​Florida   
c. ​New York   
d. ​Texas   
ANSWER: d   
  
40. Which is true of county jails in Texas?   
a. All have been privatized, leaving no public county jails.   
b. They are designed to house felons serving long sentences.   
c. They are all of exceptionally high quality.   
d. Most of them do not offer rehabilitation programs.   
ANSWER: d   
  
41. Which of the following is not true of juvenile justice in Texas?   
a. Each county has a juvenile probation board, juvenile probation officer, and juvenile probation department.   
b. Texas has a preference for sending juveniles far away from home to correctional facilities.   
c. Juvenile detention facilities have seen an increase in violence in recent years.   
d. Counseling and probation are the most commonly used procedures for dealing with juvenile offenders.   
ANSWER: b   
  
42. Government decisions regarding revenues, expenditures, and borrowing are referred to as   
a. monetary policy.   
b. foreign policy.   
c. banking policy.   
d. fiscal policy.   
ANSWER: d   
  
43. The traditional Texas fiscal policy is the achievement of a balanced budget through   
a. low taxes and low levels of public spending.   
b. high taxes and low public spending.   
c. high taxes and high public spending.   
d. low taxes and high public spending.   
ANSWER: a   
  
  
  
  
44. Which group of Texans pays the most in taxes proportional to their income?   
a. Middle class   
b. Wealthiest 20 percent   
c. Purchasers of luxury cars   
d. Poorest 20 percent   
ANSWER: d   
  
45. Regarding fiscal policy, the Texas Constitution requires that the   
a. legislature draft and pass an annual budget.   
b. state’s expenditures should be within 10 percent of projected state revenues.   
c. state’s spending should be in balance with projected state revenues.   
d. governor certify that state spending is in balance with state revenues.   
ANSWER: c   
  
46. Where does Texas rank among the states in the tax burden on its citizens?   
a. Near the top   
b. About twentieth   
c. About thirty-fifth   
d. Near the bottom   
ANSWER: d   
  
47. Grants-in-aid are defined as   
a. money from the federal government to the state.   
b. state matching of federal funds.   
c. money from private foundations to the state.   
d. federal money to states based on income tax ratios.   
ANSWER: a   
  
48. The largest share of public land revenue in Texas is derived from   
a. the sale of land to private individuals.   
b. the sale of timber.   
c. oil lease fees and royalties.   
d. recreational use fees.   
ANSWER: c   
  
  
  
49. A bond whose repayment is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the state is a   
a. revenue bond.   
b. general obligation bond.   
c. special assessment bond.   
d. limited obligation bond.   
ANSWER: b   
  
50. Another name for the state’s Economic Stabilization Fund is the   
a. general obligation fund.   
b. “pork barrel fund.”   
c. “rainy day” fund.   
d. general revenue fund.   
ANSWER: c